



For the Love of the Dance

The SalsAruba Festival kicks into high gear with daily workshops at the Wyndham

Professional and amateur salsa dancers from all over the globe have invaded Aruba's shores this week, not only to compete in the International Salsa Championships on Sunday, but also to learn new techniques from some legendary names in Latin dance. All week long, beginners and experts alike have been picking up new routines and perfecting their moves under The Palapa by the Pool of the Wyndham Resort, Spa & Casino.

Tuesday and Wednesday, festival organizers hosted workshops by Jeffrey and Candice Schmidt, Rudsel Magdalena, Kenneth Bosnie, Carlos A. Estacio, Giovanni Hidalgo, Claudio Gomez and Edie of Salsafreak. The work shops start at 9 a.m. and run until 3:30 p.m., and each is for one and one half hours. Subjects range from choreographed routines to various dance techniques like Axe and Zouk, and Edie gave a class in the Do's and Don'ts of Salsa.

The workshops are a modest \$20, and even those in Aruba to take part in the championships have availed themselves of the excellent dance tips to be learned there. Tuesday's session including couples from Belgium, Croatia, Sweden, and Aruba, some of them pros, others complete novices, eager to learn how to dance like the pros. We even caught accomplished local dance instructor Astrid Salazar of Simadanza looking over the proceedings on Tuesday morning and thoroughly enjoying the pleasure of watching skilled and enthusiastic dancers moving their hips on the dance floor as she called out to encourage them to "shake it baby, shake it!"

Friday in particular promises to be an exceptionally exciting workshop as dance legend Eddie Torres offers Mambo classes for beginners and advanced. Thursday morning will see Edie of Salsa Freak, Arelis Guevara, and Claudio Gomez taking the floor to share their expertise. Now is the time to perfect your dancing skill and get into the Latin beat, learn to move those hips and share the joy of dancing with your favorite partner. For more information on the workshop schedule check online at www.salsaruba.com or call 563-3393 or simple pass by to join a class. Workshops will finish with one last class on Saturday morning with Henry Herrera. So grab you dancing shoes, get a great workout, have fun and learn to dance with the pros during your vacation, this is a souvenir of Aruba you can take home to enjoy forever!